

Wandsworth Society

September 2014



Is it Britain's answer to the Apollo Space Programme . . . or Wandsworth's answer to the Shard? Well as you can guess it's neither . . . it's the conversion of St Paul's Church on St John's Hill SW11 into a series of flats and a community hall. There will be a few bodies turning in their graves over that . . . I presume that the spire that we see wrapped up in the picture is set for a big clean-up and renovation. The history of the church tells us that there is/was one bell in the spire . . . I must say that I have lived around here for 30-odd years and have never heard a peep from it . . . maybe they were saving it up for the invasion. Mind you, thinking about it, there's not much else one could do with one bell . . . *Will Holland*

On the Buses

In July the Roads and Transport Committee hosted an extremely interesting meeting at which GLA member Richard Tracey spoke to the group about the plans and responsibilities of TfL in the Wandsworth area. Our original question, ‘how safe are our buses?’ was addressed, and we also garnered a great deal of information about all modes of transport in the borough.

Mr Tracey spoke first about the underground. Of interest to Wandsworth residents is the Northern line spur from Kennington, which will include two new stations – Wandsworth Road and Battersea Power Station. This project has been funded by a government loan to TfL, with the money to be recovered from Nine Elms developers.

In planning, the main transport proposal that will affect our area is Crossrail 2. Mr Tracey asked for our support for this line, which will link Wimbledon, via Clapham Junction, north to Hackney. The canvassing of public opinion on this scheme closed on 25 July, but continued support will ensure that the engineers and equipment now being used for Crossrail 1 and by Thames Water can be transferred to Crossrail 2, thus cutting the costs on the project.

River transport has been extremely successful in the area, with a growth, for example, of 200% in usage at Putney. Although fares are higher

than those for buses and trains, travel and Oyster cards offer significant discounts. A new pier is to be built at Plantation Wharf this year, and TfL is looking at the possibility of extending the service with larger (carrying up to 200 passengers) and lower boats (which might allow travel further upstream).

We have all seen the Boris bike docking stations in Wandsworth introduced late last year; so far, usage in the borough seems to be on a par with elsewhere in London, and there are now plans for a docking station at Putney Pier.

The committee were originally alerted to Mr Tracey’s expertise on bus travel through a report in the *Wandsworth Guardian* on bus accidents (‘nearly 2,000 since 2008’). London-wide the service has grown enormously since the year 2000 with 7½ thousand vehicles used daily, amounting to some six million journeys. However, our members felt that while the service is excellent – that is, cheap and offering a very wide coverage – driving standards are very low. We learned from Mr Tracey that drivers attend a seven-week intensive course on bus safety, and that all buses are fitted with a black box that pinpoints driving standards. Nevertheless, bus safety is still a major concern, with ‘one person *per day* hospitalised because of an accident on or with a bus’. So, dear readers, if you are travelling by bus: hold very tight!

Linda Ulrich



Buses at Clapham Junction

© Matthew Black

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What a Pickle!

In June Mr Pickles' Department for Communities and Local Government suggested that the views of those in rural communities should have more influence on decisions concerning new wind turbines in their area – how, we wonder? This begs the question whether the views of those of us in urban communities such as London, should be have more say in decisions to approve tall buildings? Arguably, a tall building will have a greater impact in the long term on a city neighbourhood than wind turbines on countryside, where, because of their temporary nature, any impact is likely to be shorter term.

* * *

Mr Pickles, yes, him again, is proposing to fund the policy of ridding 'notorious [council?] estates' of their high-rise tower blocks and building in their place, homes of five or six storeys high, mixed with traditional terraced streets. 'The result', he is quoted as saying, 'will be more homes that are valued by residents.' Many would agree with that sentiment, including our Society, yet we can illustrate how these feelings concerning the inadequacies of tall buildings have been ignored by our Council recently with their imposition of new tall buildings on the borough.

Two years ago (some six months or more before a new application was submitted by developer Minerva) we presented the council leader and his planning committee chairman with our own sketch plans showing that a similar number of new homes to what would later be proposed by the developer could be built on the Ram Brewery site in buildings not exceeding eight storeys. Indeed, some 200 homes, with either gardens at ground level or generous balconies, in three- to six-storey terraces, could be built by the Wandle. What Wandsworth's historic town centre has been landed with is a 36-storey tower with a series of up to 12-storey blocks of flats in contravention of national planning policies and the Council's own policies and guidance.

So, while we support the thrust of Mr Pickles' presumed approach to low-rise, high-density design for the public sector, the private sector carries on regardless, to the detriment of our borough and London as a whole. Think, for example, of the impact that high-rise buildings at Nine Elms will have on views of the Palace of Westminster World Heritage Site.

Our council has now embarked on plans to rebuild the Winstanley and York Road estates north of Clapham Junction. Perhaps this has arisen due to Mr Pickles' intervention and promises of help with funding, in which case he is to be applauded for his proposals – if, that is, the current residents of the estates benefit from the new homes.

John Dawson

Planning News

The Planning Group continues to meet monthly; we have considered the latest applications and have kept an eye on some of the 'old favourites'. Thanks to Tony Taylor for supplying the figures opposite.

Letter to the Prime Minister

On 17 July we received a response from the Chief Executive of the Council to our letter of 3 April. This response contained neither substantive comment nor explanation of the Council's attitude to breaches of the confirmed policies. We will put a copy of the response on the website.

Ram Brewery

We have heard nothing new in the last few weeks, but assume preconstruction work continues. A press release on the availability of 'The Brewery Quarter' was made and we hope that all our readers have reserved at least one of the new flats or perhaps a penthouse in the tower; you had better hurry as there are only a couple left!

South Thames College and Wandsworth Borough Council Site

You may not be aware that there is a significant site fronting on to both the High Street and Garratt Lane with land lying to the rear and overlooking the Old Burial Ground. This is predominantly used as Council offices but some space is occupied by the College. The Planning Group attended a private presentation of the redevelopment proposals at the Town Hall. The proposed scheme consists of four major new blocks, mostly for residential use, however it is expected that there will be ground-floor uses compatible with the location; a new library is shown on the ground floor of one of the blocks, suggesting that the present library in the Old Court House could be closed. The one main point of contention is the height of the central block: we do not believe that the proposed 25-storey building is compatible with the nearby listed buildings, the Conservation area or the burial ground. No planning application is currently with the Council, but we have been asked to give our considered views. See also Peter Farrow's piece on pp. 6-7, which explains more fully what we like about the proposals and why we hope the Council will follow its own policies and reject the 25-storey tower.

Gyratory System, Armoury Way

Although this is, strictly, a Roads and Transport matter, we were invited to attend the briefing at the headquarters of TfL to hear how far the

preplanning had advanced. The Mayor of London announced some months ago that funding was in place, but for what? Those who attended reported that revised schemes were being worked up (no proposals available) for first-stage public consultation in the autumn. We are unlikely to be able greatly to influence the proposals, but will have to wait and see.

Feathers Wharf

Discussions continue with the Council, the Wandle Valley Regional Park and other residents' groups concerning the provision of the footpath around the northern and western edges of the site to continue the access to the Thames Path. A major gap however will exist until the high-level walkway across the waste authority facility is open for public use.

Skydec

We are delighted to advise our readers that work has commenced. We are not sure of the extent of the works but, inevitably, we shall be keeping a close eye on progress.

Cycle tracks on Wandsworth Common

Those of you who use the Common will be aware that demarcation lines have been in place on the paths for some time. The Council intended to remove these and we support this action, however a petition was raised against this move, and an inquiry is now to be held in September. If you have any views please let us know.

Neal's Lodge, Wandsworth Common

The Council is seeking to change the use of the upper part to offices to be used by Council park's staff. We have commented that we are concerned with possible increased traffic, but do not in general object to the proposals.

Side and rear extensions to existing buildings

We have had yet another case brought to our attention recently which appears to circumvent the correct interpretation of the planning rules. Let us know if you are aware of new proposals as we can do little to help after Council consent has been given.

Please feel free to join us at Planning Group meetings. Contact me at the address below to find out when and where the next meeting will be.

Philip Whyte philip.whyte@fraserwhyte.co.uk



Skydec: Seeing is Believing

- * 517 applications received by WBC during the four weeks ending 21 June
301 decided by officers on delegated authority
- * 466 applications received by WBC during the four weeks ending 19 July
414 decided by officers on delegated authority, with 1 appeal decision
- * The Planning News Decisions list shows that full committee decisions were made in 57 cases in the two weeks after 17 June but of the 60 applications listed on the 17 July agenda only 17 decisions have so far been made

Wandsworth Might Be Going Up Again

We were asked recently to look at proposals to develop a large site in the centre of Wandsworth. The proposals are a joint venture between South Thames College and the Council on three adjacent but presently separate sites:

17-27 Garratt Lane, the Council offices between the Old Court House and the Old Burial Ground;
Welbeck House, Council offices on Wandsworth High Street next to the Friends' Meeting House;
South Thames College Annexe, the building on the northern boundary of the Old Burial Ground.

These are all fairly unlovely 1970s buildings, and their demise will be no great loss. Indeed, removing the buildings and linking the sites creates a splendid opportunity to revitalise the area. The brochure illustrating the scheme can be found at <http://garrattlane-wandsworthconsultation.co.uk> or from the link on the Society's website at Current Concerns <http://www.wandsworthsociety.org.uk/concerns.htm>.

According to the brochure the scheme includes a new advice and guidance centre at South Thames College, the potential for a new modern public library, 202 new homes and commercial space.

Some background – local authorities are required to have a Local Plan, which sets out *policies and proposals for the development and other use of land within their borough*. The Local Plan consists of various documents; near the top of the list is the Site Specific Allocations Document (SSAD), which identifies *main sites where development or other change is anticipated in the borough, where the Council has particular objectives or is supporting or promoting specific proposals*. (If you want to know more about the Local Plan go to the Council's Planning page, set aside a day or two, and have a stiff drink to hand.)

The Site Specific Allocations Document (SSAD) of the Local Plan anticipated the potential of developing these three sites. The particular objectives and the specific proposals the SSAD outlined for these sites were that development will be

expected to preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the Conservation Area and should not cause harm to the setting of any listed building

and

must be consistent with and successfully integrated into the prevailing fine grain of the surrounding Conservation Area. (The conservation area is the Wandsworth Town Conservation Area and the listed buildings are South Thames College (grade II); Friends' Meeting House (grade II); the Spread Eagle Public House (grade II); the Old Courthouse Library (grade II); Wandsworth Town Hall (grade II); the Civic Suite (grade II); the former Ram Brewery (grade II); the Brewery Tap Public House (grade II) and The Old Burial Ground open space – Metropolitan Open Land.)*



South Thames College Annexe

and it noted that the existing buildings at either end of the site are too high:

some reduction of existing storey heights will be sought, in part, on both sites. This is to ensure a better relationship to adjoining listed buildings and to enhance the appearance of the Wandsworth Town Conservation Area. It will also be necessary to consider the visual impact that any tall buildings might have on views from The Old Burial Ground open space.

These buildings are five and six storeys tall. A proposed amendment to the SSAD says the existing 8-storey building in the middle of the site is *an intrusive element in the townscape and already has a poor relationship to surrounding listed buildings. All new buildings will require very sensitive massing to ensure that they do not harm the setting of listed buildings and enhance the Conservation Area.* From which we understand that the Council has unequivocally said the existing buildings at five, six and eight storeys are too tall for these sites, and that development *should not cause harm to the setting of any listed building.* The joint venture scheme between South Thames College and the Council we were asked to consider features a 25-storey tower.

We have written to object to the proposals. We believe it is self-evident that a 25-storey tower will harm rather than enhance the conservation area, and will harm the setting of the listed buildings near to or on the boundaries of the site; and it is contrary to clear and recent policy. The Society is clear in its objection to this development. We consider there are no benefits on planning grounds that outweigh the harm we believe the building will cause.

And yet – we understand the scheme has been reviewed by the Council’s Conservation Officer, by an independent design review panel and English Heritage and is considered to be acceptable.

We seem to be in the uncomfortable position of being out of step with people who should know what they are doing. Why do we consider that we are right and they are wrong? We have seen illustrations of the proposals, but there was little background information either describing the scheme or its rationale. We have no option but to speculate what the arguments might be, and, though possibly unwise to prejudge the case, we think it likely we shall be unmoved.

We suspect the justification for this tall building will be on the lines of ‘it’s well-designed’; ‘a landmark’; ‘a symbol of regeneration’; ‘necessary for the economic viability of the scheme’ (which provides much-needed housing and community assets); ‘the benefits outweigh any harm’. Yes, we’ve been here before – the Ram Brewery. And it’s possible that Sudbury House (28 storeys) and the approved tower on the Ram Brewery site (36 storeys) will be cited as precedents (with a possible aside that the damage has been done, get over it, although not put in quite those terms) and that the town centre is an area of the borough where tall buildings may be appropriate, and it will help to form a mini-cluster.

We have no option but to speculate what the arguments will be. While unwise to prejudge the case we suspect we shall be unmoved. We wait for more information, and await the next public consultation, with interest, and not a little trepidation.

Peter Farrow

Text in italics is taken from the Site Specific Allocations Document.



Aerial View From the Southwest

The Heritage Festival and the Wandsworth Society

'Heritage' is all over the place these days. If there is some ambiguity in that statement, it is intentional. Heritage is now a growth industry, with a future secured (?) in part by a Heritage Lottery Fund. There are degree courses in Heritage Studies and Heritage Management. It is almost a public duty now to 'celebrate' our heritage and the heritage of others. We attend heritage events (many 'for kids'), go on heritage tours, use heritage services, hold heritage festivals . . . What did we do in our free time before we discovered heritage?

Increasingly, we want to rediscover our past, restore and often, indeed, reinvent it. Hard to remember how many important buildings we would now want to preserve were demolished between the two world wars and in the post-war years, or to remember that the government of the 1960s (a 'conservative' one!) seriously contemplated the demolition of most of Whitehall.

It's English Heritage now, not a boring Commission (which had perhaps a more meaningful and precisely defined role). It's still the National Trust - but holding what precisely 'in trust', for what purpose? Are we doing more or less now to Preserve Rural England? It's not surprising that our Council now oversees Heritage Wandsworth (established in 2010) 'to bring together organisations with an interest in Wandsworth's history, natural heritage and built environment', and has a Heritage Service (privately run), based in Battersea Library. And we have our own Heritage Festival - to 'celebrate and promote' local heritage. The Council deserves to be congratulated on overseeing a festival that is not over the top or commercialised.

This year the Society contributed a heritage walk and a discussion - 'Wandsworth's Heritage: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow' to the Festival. For the walk, our President, Shirley Passmore, guided about 40 people, not all locals or members of the Society, along the Causeway from Armoury Way to Feathers Wharf.* Despite a drizzly start to the morning and more traffic noise than expected, Shirley was able to tell us about the history of the area, the more recent changes and the part that the Society has sought to play in continuing interactions with the Council over many years - a powerful illustration of the role of an amenity society,

even if it is not always listened to.

At our meeting on 5 June, Charles Walton, Chair of the Wandsworth Common Management Advisory Committee (the MAC), took us on a virtual tour across what he described as 'our piece of countryside'. As a common - please don't call it a park (although early pictures suggest a more formal look than now) - this open space is constantly changing, not just with the seasons. The Common's conservation requires regular and benign human intervention. If more people are to enjoy this local amenity we need to think clearly about how we want to balance the sustainment of its natural beauty with the interests of users. The maintenance of that balance through the joint work of the Council's Parks Service and the MAC has been a success, and the recent 'desilting' of the lake by the Council is a good example of change and conservation.

John Dawson talked about the built environment of parts of the borough - and showed us examples of buildings (not all of great historical or architectural importance) worthy of preservation, which have been retained through alternative uses and/or sensitive and sometimes imaginative redevelopment. But there were other examples of buildings that might have been preserved, but were not.

Bruce St Julian Bown, the Society's Wandle Man, took us on a tour of the river, which begins its course some 12 miles from its confluence with the Thames. Like most rivers, the Wandle no longer has significance for industry or transport, but it deserves to have a future as a thing of nature and beauty that can delight and, yes, be celebrated. The Wandle Valley Forum (which Bruce chairs) is helping to bring it back to life, with much useful work done by volunteer helpers. Here again, significant planning considerations continue to concern the Forum and the Society.

'Heritage' has certainly got a future. By and large, it is a Good Thing. But it is strange, is it not, how our heritage keeps changing? We all need to think hard about the role that local voices can play in managing the inevitable change and development of our built and natural environment.

David Kirk

*Copies of the notes for the Causeway walk, the local history and more recent developments, can be obtained from davidcameronkirk@hotmail.com.

Our Sights Track On To British Rail's Railings

Last year a substantial line of white railings was installed along the entire length of the central island platform at Wandsworth Common Station, at what must have been a substantial cost. We understand that the purpose of this barrier is to stop passengers straying across the platform, thereby putting themselves at risk from fast through trains from Victoria. This station was built some 170 years ago and yet only now has it been decided that today's passengers cannot be trusted to take their lives in their own hands. The only death we can recall at the station in recent years was that of a lady who accidentally fell through the wide gap between the front carriages of a stopping train on

the curved banked track and the edge of up-platform 2. The gap remains a hazard that would benefit from some attention, and the argument of 'insufficient funds' to remedy the situation cannot now be made by the authorities, as clearly they have cash to spend. In the circumstances it would be interesting to learn what the new fence cost.

On further reflection there are very many stations across the country where trains pass by platforms occupied by passengers at speeds very much faster than at Wandsworth Common; these cannot all be fenced, so why at Wandsworth?

John Dawson



Château Tooting: London's First Local Wine

London now has a local wine – and it all started in Tooting. Some five years ago, inspired by holidays in France where villagers pool their grapes to be turned into the village's own wine, Richard Sharp thought 'Why not try the same in London's villages?' So he set up the Urban Wine Company.

Surprisingly, it seems that London has the perfect micro-climate for wine production, the extra warmth of the concrete jungle giving it an edge over the green countryside. To judge by the success of Urban Wine's first few years, London's garden vines are heavy with surplus grapes needing a good home. Richard has found them one.

At first, the company was run on co-operative lines by volunteers, with members paying an annual subscription and receiving six bottles of wine. Local outlets stocked the surplus; labels could be customised, so Château Tooting could become Château Islington. Now, although the enterprise is still run by volunteers, there's no membership scheme, instead each 2 kg of grapes contributed

entitles the grape-picking gardener to one bottle at a set price. The grapes must be free of mildew and rot, which could contaminate the batch, so the fun and exercise involved in harvesting one's grapes must be accompanied by serious quality control.

Everyone brings their grapes early one morning in autumn to a collection point, from which the tonne or so (in 2013) is transported to the Bolney Wine Estate in Sussex where it is turned into Urban Wine. About five months later the new wine is launched at a convivial gathering. It was blush pink and dry and delicious in 2011, this year it's white and delicious. Each year brings its own rewards.

Thank you Richard, for your big idea.

Gillian Wightwick

If you would like to join in this year contact Richard at urbanwineuk@gmail.com or 07944983286. The new website, www.urbanwineco.com, will shortly be up and running. To see Richard's video goto, www.youtube.com/watch?v=DFt_woUvYk.

Rivers of London Walks

On a very hot day in June we walked the Hogsmill River from Ewell to Kingston, along both rural, suburban and urban paths, but mostly rural. The river rises slightly south of our starting point, but becomes walkable near the station. The early stretch is notable for being the site where Millais set the minutely executed background of his painting *Ophelia* (now in the Tate), executed while staying in Holman Hunt's country cottage – and Hunt's *Hireling Shepherd* is also sited near the Hogsmill. We paused for a pub lunch at The Hogsmill Tavern at Worcester Park, and then pursued the river with all its twists and turns, passing under the A3 and behind Kingston University, until it enters the

Thames in the middle of the town.

On 8 July a small group walked along the Beverley Brook from New Malden to the Thames near Putney. It was a pleasantly rural walk passing only a small amount of suburbia and with the brook visible (or audible) beside us for much of the way. Birds, flowers, nuts, butterflies and fish were all in evidence, as well as a cat catching a mouse through plastic sheeting on a well-tended allotment. We passed a romantically declining cemetery, a part of Richmond Common beside the brook that none of us had been to before and enjoyed a welcome coffee at the Roehampton Café. Recommended to those who missed it!

Jenny Massey



Danubia: A Personal History of Habsburg Europe

A talk on 15 May

As the Society's contribution to the Wandsworth Arts Festival Fringe we were pleased to welcome local author Simon Winder to talk about his new book *Danubia: A Personal History of Habsburg Europe*.

Such is Simon's joy and enthusiasm for his subject, that from the moment he stepped on to the dais he smiled and simply chatted about the Habsburgs who, whilst being a very peculiar family nevertheless ruled much of Europe for some centuries. Much of Europe means large parts of modern day Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Croatia, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, the

Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and the Ukraine, and some centuries means from the 11th to the 20th, that's some realm, and some time.

Simon's talk was a joy, engaging, anecdotal, interesting and informative. This was his second talk to the Society. The first was based on his book *Germania: A Personal History of Germans Ancient and Modern* and was equally entertaining. We very much hope he has another book in him – that could prompt a return visit

Needless to say his book comes highly recommended, and not just by us.
Peter Farrow

Our Summer Soirée

July 27 proved a warm and balmy midsummer evening. As well as the musical delights offered in the Byrons' drawing room, we were able to enjoy drinks and conversation in their garden beforehand and during the interval, and to welcome some for whom this was their first Wandsworth Society soirée. In a pleasantly relaxed atmosphere, how good it was to have a recital devoted to music for the clarinet, an instrument we have not heard at recent soirées, and the piano, with which it works so well.

Our very accomplished young performers were clarinettist Chris Goodman and pianist Timothy End. Both are London-based professional musicians who trained not so long ago at the royal colleges. They gave us a pleasingly varied programme, ranging from the Romantic repertoire (Schumann and Brahms) to Shostakovich, Horowitz and Gerald Finzi.

The clarinet is a very versatile instrument, probably most notable for its lyrical qualities – very much on display in the pieces performed for us, particularly perhaps in Schumann's *Fantasiestücke* and Three Romances, but also in a powerful and spirited rendering of the first movement of Brahms' Clarinet Sonata No. 1 and, indeed, in the 20-century music. In all these varied compositions the clarinet often seems to 'sing', but the piano's part is never a subordinate one.

The Romantic pieces were nicely contrasted – or complemented – by a selection of more modern works for clarinet and piano. Two of Gerald Finzi's Bagatelles reflected the 'English' and pastoral themes for which he is best known. The second movement of the contemporary composer Joseph Horowitz's *Sonatina for Clarinet and Piano* had a hint of jazz. The evening's finale, Shostakovich's 'The Gadfly' (of which there are many versions), was written originally for a Soviet film, but is perhaps better known to many now as the theme music for *Reilly, Ace of Spies*.

On behalf of all who attended (as usual, there was a 'full house', despite short notice*), grateful thanks goes to the musicians (and Timothy End was standing in for Christopher Guild at the last minute); to the Byrons as our hosts; to the Blumers for serving the drinks; and not least to Peter Farrow, who organised this soirée almost single-handed (with some help from his family among others).

David Kirk

*There was time only to notify members by 'e-mail alert' on this occasion. If you want to be included on our e-mail distribution list, contact wandsworthsociety@mac.com.

Events Elsewhere in the Borough

Throughout September

Totally Thames

A month-long celebration of the river's 42 miles will include a tall ships' festival, a river race, Handel's fireworks' music and illuminations. From Wandsworth, Pamela Greenwood of the Wandsworth Historical Society will be conducting a walk on 13 September exploring Putney's historic riverside. See www.totallythames.org.

20–21 September

Open House

London's great architectural showcase. See www.londonopenhouse.org for listings.

4–5 and 11–12 October

Wandsworth Artist's Annual Open House Event

11 a.m. to 6 p.m each day. Go to www.wandsworthart.com for a list of participating artists.

6–10 November

Emanuel School at War

An exhibition remembering the part played by Old Emanuels in the First and Second World Wars.

Wandsworth Society Talks and Events

Unless otherwise stated, all events will be at 7.45 for 8 pm in West Side Church, at the corner of Melody Road and Allfarthing Lane, SW18 2QQ. Please go to www.wandsworthsociety.org.uk for latest details.

Thursday 9 September

Walk Along the River Lea (includes the Olympic Park)

Meet at Clapham Junction (Platform 1, London Overground for 09.46 train to South Tottenham)
A walk of about 6.5 miles on very easy terrain, finishing at Limehouse Basin (can be lengthened or shortened slightly). Many refreshment stops to select from (or bring your own). Contact Caroline Pook, caroline@pookfamily.co.uk, 020 8870 4958. Mobile contact on the day: 07836 254065.

Thursday 25 September

Wildlife Crime

In Britain the responsibility for enforcement of the laws protecting our wildlife rests with the police service. Many different offences are committed against wildlife in this country every year and PC Laura Manuel, our local Wildlife Officer, will explain what is meant by wildlife crime.

Sunday 12 October

7.30 for 8, 14 Patten Road SW18

Wandsworth Society Soirée: Chopin and Majorca

Rose Cholmondley, President of the Chopin Society, will talk about the visit of Chopin and George Sand to Majorca from 1838 to 1839, and perform some of the piano works that Chopin composed at that time. To book (£10/head, payable on the day, to include a drink), contact davidcameronkirk@hotmail.com, 0208 874 9167. Soirées are regularly over-subscribed and there is a reserve list for tickets, so please let us know in advance if you cannot attend.

Thursday 16 October

Clean Air in Wandsworth

What should we be doing to reduce air pollution? Samantha Heath, Chief Executive of the London Sustainability Exchange, will discuss the issues with us.

Thursday 23 October

Walk Around the Inns of Court

Meet 10.30 am prompt, Holborn Underground Station
Blue Badge Guide Angela Down will lead a walk through this historic area, which has provided education and support for barristers and students since the 14th century. £7/head, payable on the day, but please book with Valerie on 0208 8767 3814 or vtaylor@davies@gmail.com.

Thursday 13 November

Industries Along the River Wandle, an Illustrated Talk

Local historian Dorian Gerhold will explore the significant industrial past of Wandsworth and its river. Dorian is a former Chairman of the Wandsworth Historical Society.